in response to the receiving step, said subsystem monitoring said characteristic, and

if and approximately when said minimum numerical amount of said change subsequently occurs in said said characteristic, said subsystem reporting a value of said characteristic or an amount of change of said characteristic to said host system,

if no change occurs or less than said minimum numerical amount of change occurs before a predetermined time-out, said subsystem reporting to said host system a value of said characteristic or an amount of change of said characteristic upon said predetermined time-out.

✓Claim 55 previously canceled.

56. (previously amended)   A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said characteristic of said subsystem is a characteristic of a component coupled to said subsystem.

57. (previously amended)   A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said characteristic is a temperature of said subsystem.

58. (previously presented)   A method as set forth in claim 54 further comprising the steps of:

before the receiving step, establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem;

after the receiving step but before the reporting step, terminating said communication link; and

after the terminating step but before said reporting step, establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem for said reporting.

59.(previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 58 wherein each of said communication links comprises SCSI commands and protocol.

60.(previously amended) A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure, and said characteristic of said subsystem pertains to said SAF-TE enclosure.

61.(previously amended) A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure and programming to support periodic SAF-TE polls made by said host system for said characteristic, and further comprising the step of said subsystem receiving periodic SAF-TE polls made by said host system, and said subsystem responding to said periodic SAF-TE polls by promptly reporting said characteristic for each of said polls, whether or not said characteristic has changed.

62.(previously amended) A computer system comprising a host system and a subsystem coupled to said host system, said computer system comprising:

first programming in said host system to generate and send a request to said subsystem to monitor a numerically variable characteristics of said subsystem and report to said host system a value of said characteristic or an amount of change of said characteristic when a minimum numerical amount of change in said characteristic occurs, said request specifying said numerical minimum amount of said change;

second programming in said subsystem to respond to said request by monitoring said characteristic of said subsystem, and

if and approximately when said minimum numerical amount of said change subsequently occurs, reporting to said host system a value of said characteristic or an amount of change of said characteristic,

if no change occurs or less than said minimum numerical amount of change occurs before a predetermined time-out, said subsystem reporting to said host system a value of said characteristic or an amount of change of said characteristic upon said predetermined time-out.

Claim 63 previously canceled.

64.(previously amended) A system as set forth in claim 62 wherein said characteristic of said subsystem includes a characteristic of a component coupled to said subsystem.

65.(previously amended) A system as set forth in claim 62 wherein said characteristic is a temperature of said subsystem.

66.(previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 62 further comprising:

    means for establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem before said first programming sends said request to said subsystem;

    means for terminating said communication link after said first programming sends said request but before said subsystem responds to said request; and

    means for establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem after said terminating of said communication link but before said subsystem responds to said request, to enable said subsystem to report said status.

67.(previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 66 wherein each of said communication links comprises SCSI commands and protocol.

68.(previously amended) A system as set forth in claim 62 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure, and said characteristic of said subsystem pertains to said SAF-TE enclosure.

69. (currently amended) A system as set forth in claim 62 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure; and further comprising third programming within said subsystem to respond to said periodic SAF-TE polls by promptly reporting said characteristic of said subsystem for each of said polls, whether or not said characteristic has changed.